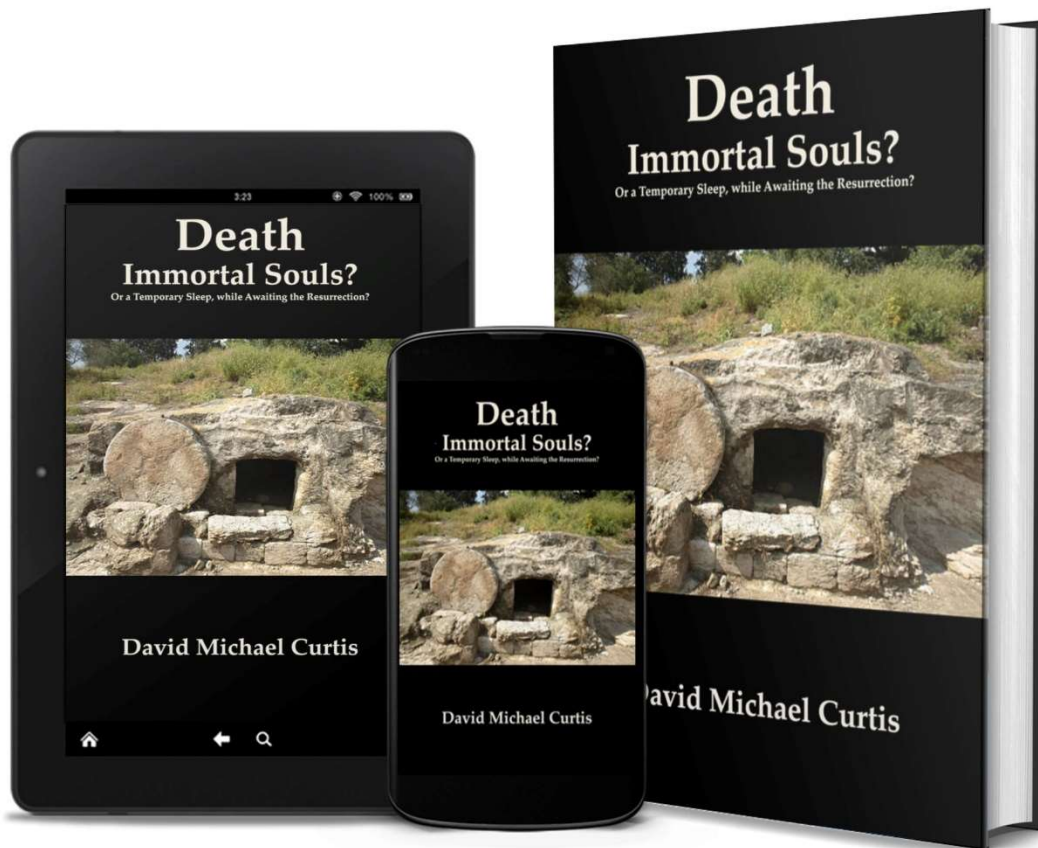




Death Immortal Souls?

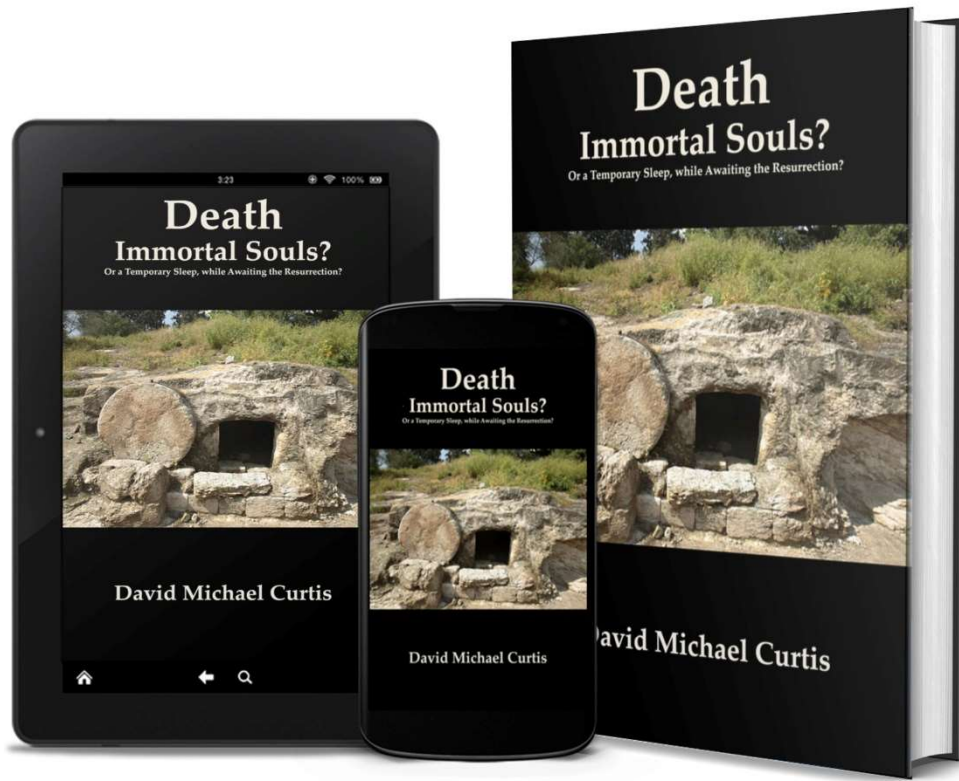
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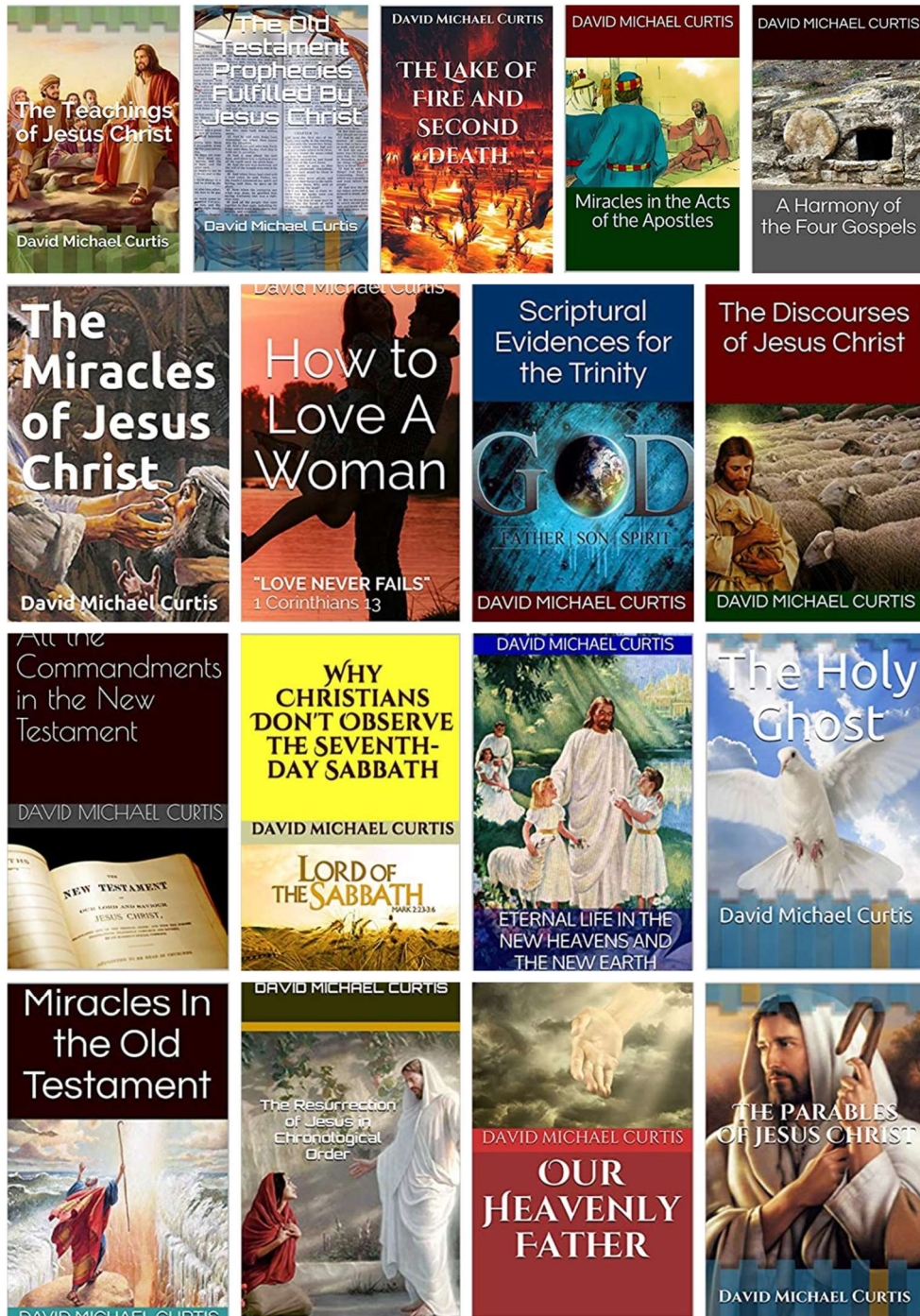
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About the Author,

David Michael Curtis (1974-Present)



I am a sinner saved by God's grace. I have been baptized, and I confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of my sins and the gift of eternal life.

I was born in Roseburg, Oregon. I became a Christian at age 19 in 1993. Over the next seven years, I wore out the bindings of eleven KJV Bibles. Using my own money, I conducted my first evangelistic crusade in 1999. I taught the Bible on the radio five days a week on K.O.R.E. Springfield, OR (2000-2002). I sold KJV Bibles and children's character-building books door to door in Washington, Oregon, California, Texas, Kansas, Georgia, Tennessee, and New York (1999-2007).

I was a volunteer chaplain for a maximum-security prison in Northern California (2005-2007). Since 2001, I have owned/managed 75+ Christian websites. From 2008 to 2010, I was the General Manager for Harvestime Books (an international Christian publishing house). I have also served the church as an elder, a new believer's class teacher, and a vacation Bible school teacher.

A Helpful Illustration Describing this Topical Bible Study eBook

The tallest trees in the world are the Redwoods in Northern California. The Redwoods share a single network of roots; this root system connects **all** the Redwoods trees. This means the Redwoods Forest is also the largest single-living organism in the world.

Imagine that each doctrine of the Bible is a giant Redwood tree supported by 30-40 roots (Bible verses). Examine the neighboring doctrines that share a root system (Bible verses) with that doctrine. Understand that under its surface, all the doctrines are connected by one massive root system within the Bible. My books *show how the various doctrines interconnect and share the same roots, supporting and depending on each other.*

My books use the Bible as its own interpreter, providing all the verses on whichever doctrine is being studied, topically arranged, without commentary. Christ is the only Teacher you need. He promised that you would know the truth, and the truth would set you free.



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Was It Jesus or the Holy Spirit Who Preached to the Spirits Who Are Now in Prison?—Part 1

By David Michael Curtis

The document, "Was It Jesus or the Holy Spirit Who Preached to the Spirits Who Are Now in Prison—Part 1" by David Michael Curtis, discusses interpretations of 1 Peter 3:18-22 and 2 Peter 2:3-6. It addresses misconceptions about Jesus descending into hell and preaching to lost souls in a fiery place of torment.

The document argues that the Lake of Fire is a future event at Judgment Day and not a current place of torment. It states that judgment precedes punishment, and the resurrection of condemnation occurs at the end of the thousand years, not before.

It explains that the devil and his fallen demons are not cast into the lake of fire until the end of the 1,000 years, and people who die are dead and awaiting the resurrection of condemnation. The document clarifies that there is no intermediate state of existence without a physical or angelic body.

Furthermore, it discusses the biblical understanding of death as returning to dust and ashes, with the spirit returning to God. It asserts that the lost and condemned are reserved for Judgment Day and have no awareness of anything happening. The document condemns divination and the worship of the dead, contrasting these practices with the worship of the God of Abraham.

The document differentiates between biblical teaching and Greek and Roman mythology, which depicts Hades as a place of eternal torment. It explains that Jesus' descent into "hell" refers to his burial in a tomb. It also emphasizes that the Holy Spirit preached to the spirits in prison through Noah, not Jesus descending into a fiery place of torment. The spirits in prison are the dead awaiting judgment.

Dear friends,

Scriptural Foundation.

1 Peter 3:18-22 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but **quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;** Which sometime were disobedient, **when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing,** wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,)

by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

2 Peter 2:3-6 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. For if **God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned *them* with an overthrow, making *them* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;**

Misconceptions About Jesus Descending into Hell.

The Bible teaches that Jesus descended into hell, and the Apostle Peter mentions preaching in relation to this event. Today, we need to clarify some misunderstandings surrounding this teaching. The common belief is that Jesus descended into a fiery place of torment to preach the Gospel to lost, condemned souls suffering from a fire somewhere deep within the Earth. However, there are several misconceptions regarding this idea.

The Nature and Timing of the Lake of Fire.

First, let's address whether there is a fiery place of torment located in the middle of the Earth right now. The answer is no; there is not. The Lake of Fire is an event that is still in the future and will occur on the great day of God Almighty—Judgment Day. This day has not yet happened. The lake of fire is reserved for fallen angels, as well as those who receive the mark of the beast. The beast and the false prophet are among those who have a reserved spot in the lake of fire. However, since Judgment Day has not occurred, it is illogical and inconsistent with Scripture to teach that people are being tormented by fire immediately upon death.

Judgment Precedes Punishment.

The reason this view is inconsistent is that Judgment Day, when God will judge all souls, has not yet taken place. Therefore, we need to clarify whether God is punishing people in advance of that judgment. The answer is no; they are not being tormented in advance. Revelation 20 teaches us that "the rest of the dead did not live until the thousand years were over." There will be a resurrection of the righteous and a resurrection of the condemned. The resurrection of condemnation occurs at the end of the thousand years, not before, and it is on hold until that time.

The Millennium and the Abyss.

During the thousand years, the devil is chained in the abyss, which we have discussed in detail in the documents on Google Drive related to the Millennium or the thousand years.

The Timing of Casting into the Lake of Fire.

The main point we need to highlight now is that the devil and his fallen demons are not cast into the lake of fire until the end of the 1,000 years. This is also when the beast, the false prophet, those who received the mark of the beast, and everyone else who is lost and condemned will be cast into the lake of fire.

Death, Resurrection, and the State of the Dead.

To clarify the timeline, first, there is a judgment, and then there is punishment. No one is being punished right now; they are dead and waiting for the resurrection of condemnation, which happens at the end of the 1,000 years. In 1 Corinthians 15 and 2 Corinthians 5, the Apostle Paul clearly teaches that there are two types of bodies: one that is flesh and blood and another that is an angelic body, which is now in heaven. There is no intermediate state of existence without one of these bodies.

The Biblical Understanding of Death.

Here is the sequence of events when a person dies: they are laid in the grave, returning to dust and ashes, while the Spirit, or the ability to breathe, returns to God, who gave it. Without breath, there is no life. Go to any emergency room, and a doctor will confirm that if you are not breathing, you are dead. This is common sense, and the Bible agrees with medical professionals.

The State of the Lost and Condemned After Death.

When someone who is lost or condemned dies, they are laid in the grave, return to dust and ashes, and wait for the resurrection of condemnation. They are reserved, just like the fallen angels, for Judgment Day, and they have no awareness of anything happening. Any teaching that suggests a spirit leaves the body and exists in heaven or hell with thoughts, feelings, emotions, and awareness is called divination. This practice is condemned in the Law of Moses. Those who attempt to contact the dead are practicing divination, which is an abomination to God.

Idolatry and the Worship of the Dead.

It is essential to distinguish between the worshippers of the God of Abraham and everyone else. Many others have fallen into the false idea of worshipping dead people. All idolatry is rooted in the worship of the dead. Idols—whether small or large statues—were created to commemorate dead people. Typically, these were kings, and the religion of that nation taught that a deceased king became a god, leading people to make statues and venerate them through worship and prayer.

Worshipping dead people or praying to them constitutes idolatry. The idea that departed spirits exist and that we can contact them through Ouija boards or séances is also a form of divination, a

practice condemned in Scripture. We need to make a clear break from idolatry and the worship of the dead, as well as anything connected to it.

The Dead Know Nothing.

The Bible teaches that the dead are truly dead. This is common sense; even a medical doctor would agree with the notion that dead people are dead. There is nothing mystical about it. The dead do not know anything, do not have feelings or memories, and are not aware of what people on Earth are doing. There are biblical verses that support each of these points.

Greek and Roman Mythology vs. Biblical Teaching.

So, what about Jesus descending into hell? If you were a Greek or Roman, you might interpret this as Jesus descending into Hades. In Greek and Roman mythology, Hades was viewed as a place beneath the Earth, an eternal realm of torment. This mythology included a god named Jupiter, depicted with horns, a tail, and a pitchfork, who would eternally torment the condemned in fire.

The Origin of Counterfeit Narratives.

Now, let's demystify this deception and examine how the devil likely developed it. Isaiah, dating back to around 700 BC, clearly defined the punishment of the wicked by fire at the end of the world. However, the development of Greek and Roman mythology occurred nearly 200 years later. This gave the devil ample time to study what the Bible, through Isaiah and Moses, taught about the destruction of the wicked at the end of days by fire.

During that period, he had the opportunity to create a counterfeit narrative—a lie that intertwined with the beliefs of those willing participants in Greece. They helped shape the idea that fallen kings, who became gods, were worshipped and prayed to, with statues erected in their honor. This led to the belief that these false gods had control over places known as Heaven and Hades.

Distinct Frameworks: Mythology vs. Scripture.

It's essential to note that this mythological framework is entirely separate from Christianity and the religion of ancient Israel in the Old Testament. These beliefs developed independently, yet they ran parallel to each other throughout history.

Biblical Teaching on the Destruction of the Wicked.

The Bible introduces the concept of the destruction of the wicked at the end of days by fire, suggesting that it ultimately results in ashes. This can be easily demonstrated by examining every verse in the Old Testament that is quoted by New Testament figures such as Jesus and the apostles. Each of these New Testament references—regarding the worm that doesn't die, the

eternal destruction, and the smoke rising forever—originates from Old Testament authors. In each instance cited in the New Testament, the event takes place in one day and concludes with ashes. The wicked are destroyed, and their destruction is eternal.

Counterfeit Belief Systems.

This original belief, which the apostles and Christ were referencing in the New Testament, stands in contrast to a parallel counterfeit religion that developed in Greece and Rome, influenced by Greek philosophers like Plato and Aristotle. These philosophers created a counterfeit belief system rooted in idolatry and the veneration of deceased kings. One notable figure in this narrative is Zeus, who was a historical person. A first-century historian named Josephus even mentions King Zeus and points out that, 2,000 years ago, everyone knew that King Zeus was buried on the island of Crete, where anyone could visit his tomb and see it with their own eyes.

Greek Mythology and the Afterlife.

Greek mythology is deeply rooted in idolatry, particularly in the veneration of dead kings and the worship of the deceased. According to the Greek and Roman perspectives, when a person dies, their Spirit leaves the body and goes to either heaven or Hades. If someone had a good spirit, they would be granted access to heaven; if they had an evil spirit, they would descend to Hades, where they would face punishment, often associated with figures like Jupiter wielding a pitchfork.

Comparing Mythology and Prophecy.

This topic is worth exploring further. You can examine how Greek mythology developed, its origins, and how it compares to earlier teachings, such as those from the prophet Isaiah, who lived hundreds of years prior. What we see emerging in Greece and later adopted by Rome seems to be a counterfeit version of the original revelation given by God through Isaiah. His prophecy about the destruction of the wicked predates the formation of Greek mythology by centuries.

The Influence of Mythology on Interpretation.

Suppose you interpret certain verses that suggest Jesus descended into hell through a Greek mythological lens. In that case, you might believe that Jesus went to a place of torment within the Earth to preach the Gospel to people suffering in fire, tormented by the devil. This is a common misconception, and it is deeply rooted in idolatry. Unfortunately, some Christians hold a worldview regarding the destruction of the wicked that lacks a foundation in Scripture.

Consistency of Prophecy.

Let's fast forward to the time of the New Testament, where we see Jesus Christ and the apostles quoting from Old Testament prophecies about the destruction of the wicked. First, I want to

emphasize that God did not change His mind about how He would punish the wicked. He did not state one thing in the Old Testament and then completely altered the doctrine in the New Testament. This is not an "either/or" logical fallacy; we cannot dismiss what God clearly predicted in the Old Testament based on the New Testament.

Prophecy Will Be Fulfilled.

While the New Testament does abolish some things, prophecy is not one of them. Prophecy unfolds exactly as it was foretold. Jesus affirmed this, stating that "the Scripture cannot be broken." Consequently, we cannot claim that the New Testament nullifies a prophecy. These prophecies will be fulfilled, and every jot and tittle will come to pass, as Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount.

Interpreting New Testament References to Old Testament Prophecy.

We see New Testament figures, like Jesus and the apostles, citing Old Testament prophecies, such as those found in the Book of Isaiah and the Law of Moses. They mention that "the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever," that "their destruction is eternal," and that "their worm never dies." It is crucial not to cherry-pick from the New Testament but to understand these phrases in light of their original prophetic contexts.

Affirmation of Old Testament Prophecy.

The apostles were not redefining how God would punish the wicked; rather, they were affirming that the prophecies in the Old Testament would indeed come to pass. To understand how this will happen, we must refer back to the original Old Testament texts that state, for example, that the worm never dies and that the smoke of their torment ascends forever, indicating they are tormented day and night.

Eternal Judgment: The Example of Sodom and Gomorrah.

We can look at examples in Peter's and Jude's epistles regarding Sodom and Gomorrah. Sodom and Gomorrah are currently undergoing eternal judgment and eternal fire. While it is true that Sodom and Gomorrah are not actively burning today, the consequences of that fire are eternal; the cities were destroyed and have never been rebuilt. Thus, their destruction signifies eternal destruction.

Defining Terms by Scripture, Not Mythology.

We must define these terms based on how Scripture uses them rather than attempting to align them with Greek mythology. By the end of the first century, the early church comprised predominantly Greeks and Romans, with very few Jews among the Christians. Consequently, as

we enter the second century, many of these concepts were shaped by Greek and Roman converts to Christianity, who already held predefined notions of hell and heaven.

Influence of Gentile Worldview on Early Church Fathers.

Therefore, when we examine the writings of the church fathers, we may find Greek and Roman definitions of Christian concepts. However, the mere existence of these definitions does not prove they had the correct understanding; it simply shows how their previous Gentile worldview influenced their interpretation of Christianity after the apostles had died, leaving no one to correct their misguided beliefs.

The Biblical Meaning of "Hell."

If we understand that Jesus descended into hell from a scriptural standpoint, what does that mean? In almost every instance where we find the word "hell" in the Old Testament, it comes from the Hebrew word "Sheol," which refers to the grave. Did Jesus descend into a tomb? Yes, He did—specifically, a rich man's tomb. This is central to the Gospel: Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day. The fact that Jesus was buried in a rich man's tomb is part of this Gospel message.

So when we teach that Jesus descended into hell, what it means in a scriptural context is that Jesus was placed in the tomb—He was buried according to Scripture. It does not imply anything more or anything less than that.

Preaching to the Spirits in Prison: The Role of the Holy Spirit and Noah.

Now, what about Peter's mention of the antediluvian, the souls who died before the flood, and that they had the Gospel preached to them? Does this support the idea that Jesus descended into a place of fiery torment and preached the Gospel to those who had died in the flood? Absolutely not. If that had happened, consider this: if hell were a place on the Earth, as the Greeks taught, and if Jesus went to Hades and preached the Gospel during His descent into the rich man's tomb, contrary to what many misconceptions suggest, then all of Hades would have been emptied. Who would have rejected Jesus' offer to leave Hades? No one would have turned it down; everyone would have accepted the offer to escape. Nobody would choose to remain in that situation.

Understanding Peter's Statement.

So, what is actually happening in Peter's epistles? The emphasis is not on Jesus but on the Holy Spirit. It is mentioned that it was by the Spirit that these spirits, now in prison, had the Gospel preached to them. Who preached the Gospel to them? It was the Holy Spirit.

How did the Holy Spirit preach the Gospel to the spirits in prison? The Holy Spirit reached out to those who died before the flood through Noah. Noah spent 120 years preparing the ark, and during that time, he preached to people, urging them to enter the boat he was building. Essentially, the Holy Spirit preached to those who perished in the flood through Noah. This interpretation becomes clear when you examine the verse in its context, which emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit.

Spirits in Prison: The Dead Awaiting Judgment.

When we refer to the spirits in prison, we are speaking of the dead. These individuals will be released from this prison of death at the end of 1,000 years when they are resurrected to face Judgment Day. In the meantime, there are vast multitudes of fallen angels that are reserved for judgment. This world is not overwhelmed by every fallen angel from heaven. While we do experience demon possession, as illustrated in the four Gospels, we can take comfort in the fact that not all fallen angels roam the Earth. Scripture teaches us that the devil's angels are held in reserve for Judgment Day, with most of them confined to a place called the abyss.

The Abyss Defined.

You might recall that when Jesus cast out Legion, the demons asked to be sent into pigs to avoid being sent into the abyss. What is the abyss? According to Romans 10:7, the term "abyss" is defined as death.

The fallen angels pleaded with Jesus not to be cast into the abyss, asking Him instead to send them into a herd of pigs. They understood that many of the angels who had fallen from heaven were already in the abyss, dead and reserved for Judgment Day. These fallen angels are not being tormented in the Lake of Fire yet because that event has not occurred; the Lake of Fire is a future occurrence that will take place on Judgment Day.

The Lake of Fire: A Future Event.

The lake of fire is a place reserved for the "VIPs": the devil, his fallen angels, the beast, the false prophet, and those who receive the mark of the beast. These are the special guests who have reservations for this event. However, the lake of fire has not happened yet; it remains a future event.

Jesus' Descent into Hell: Burial and Resurrection.

Let's bring everything together. When Jesus descended into hell, it meant he was placed in a rich man's tomb, which was sealed with a stone and guarded by Roman soldiers. Now, let's compare the death of Lazarus with the death of Jesus Christ, as this is the point Peter makes in Acts 2: that Jesus' flesh would not see corruption.

Jesus was placed in the tomb on Friday evening and resurrected on Sunday morning. This time frame was not long enough for His flesh to experience corruption. In contrast, Lazarus had been in his tomb for four days, and the Bible describes in John 11 that Lazarus's corpse began to stink—his flesh had seen corruption. Nevertheless, Christ was able to resurrect Lazarus and restore his flesh to perfect health.

The Significance of the Third Day Resurrection.

When we say that Jesus descended into hell, we emphasize that He was placed in the grave but was resurrected not on the fourth day like Lazarus, but on the third day. The only time that elapsed was from Friday evening to Sunday morning, which was not sufficient for His flesh to begin experiencing corruption. The point highlighted by Peter is that Jesus descended into hell and was placed in a rich man's tomb to show that His flesh never saw corruption, and He rose back to life before His flesh could begin to decay.

Corruption and Incorruption.

1 Corinthians 15 discusses the process of corruption. It explains that we need to put off corruption and put on incorruption; we must put off mortality and put on immortality. This flesh and blood are corruptible, which means they eventually perish and return to dust and ashes. They decompose, attracting maggots and bacteria. No matter how deep in the grave a body is buried, the natural process of death causes flesh and blood to deteriorate.

Christ's Body and Corruption.

This corruption process did not begin with the body of Christ due to its short time in the rich man's tomb. However, by the fourth day, when Lazarus was raised from the dead, he had been in his tomb long enough for this process of decay to start. In 1 Corinthians 15, it is stated that all flesh perishes. Our current bodies—this flesh and blood that we inhabit—are corruptible. Scripture teaches us that "flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God." This perishable, corruptible body cannot enter God's city.

Transformation at the Second Coming.

According to 1 Thessalonians 4, at the second coming, the dead in Christ will be raised, and those who are alive and remain until the end will be transformed simultaneously. What is this transformation like, according to 1 Corinthians 15? We will be transformed from corruptible to incorruptible, from mortal to immortal.

Earthly House vs. Heavenly Tabernacle.

What is this transformation like, according to Second Corinthians 5? We put off this earthly house, which describes our current flesh-and-blood bodies. In its place, we put on our heavenly house, our heavenly Tabernacle, which is reserved for us in heaven. According to the Apostle Paul, our heavenly, angelic bodies already exist—it's already a done deal. We have eternal bodies in heaven, but we will not receive these heavenly Tabernacles until the second coming, when the dead in Christ are raised. At that time, we will be transformed from corruptible to incorruptible, from mortal to immortal, moving from an earthly house to a heavenly Tabernacle.

No Intermediate State.

In Second Corinthians 5, the Apostle Paul specifically states twice that there is no naked condition between these two bodies—there is no disembodied spirit in between. When our earthly bodies die and we stop breathing, the Spirit returns to God, who gave that Spirit. The term "spirit" comes from the same root as "pneumatic," referring to air or breath. This ability to breathe was endowed to us when God breathed life into Adam's nostrils. When Adam died, he lost that ability.

Body, Breath, and Life.

In essence, the body plus breath equals life, while the body without breath equals death. Anyone, whether saved or lost, who dies is simply dead. It's a fundamental truth that the body without the Spirit is dead. You can confirm this by asking any doctor; they'll tell you that someone who has stopped breathing is indeed dead. This teaching aligns with biblical Scripture: the body without the Spirit is lifeless.

May God's grace and peace be with you.

In Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

Mr. David Michael Curtis

Was It Jesus or the Holy Spirit Who Preached to the Spirits Who Are Now in Prison?—Part 2

By David Michael Curtis

The document, "Was It Jesus or the Holy Spirit Who Preached to the Spirits Who Are Now in Prison—Part 2" by David Michael Curtis, discusses several key theological points:

- **Resurrections:** It outlines two resurrections, one of life and one of condemnation, separated by a 1,000-year period, as described in Revelation 20.
- **State of the Dead:** It states that from death until Judgment Day, people are dead and do not suffer in a lake of fire. The concept of a devil with horns, a tail, and a pitchfork is described as originating from Greek mythology.
- **Annihilationism:** It discusses the idea that the wicked are ultimately destroyed rather than eternally tormented, and how this concept can evoke strong reactions from some evangelical Christians.
- **Judgment:** It emphasizes that judgment belongs to God and that those who focus on hell, fire, and brimstone may be expressing anger towards God.
- **God vs. Satan:** It contrasts the nature of God, depicted as merciful and just, with the idea of Satan, portrayed as one who would endlessly torment people.
- **Jesus' Teachings:** It argues that Jesus' teachings about punishment and judgment align with the Old Testament and do not equate to Greek mythology. The destruction of the wicked is described as ending in ashes.
- **Eternal Fire:** It clarifies that the concept of "eternal fire" as seen in Sodom and Gomorrah refers to the consequences of their destruction, not ongoing burning.
- **Degrees of Punishment:** It suggests that God will punish everyone justly in the lake of fire, but not everyone will receive the same punishment; there will be different degrees of punishment.
- **Judgment Day:** It depicts Judgment Day as a 24-hour event where the wicked, including the devil and fallen angels, will be consumed by fire, resulting in the "second death."
- **Epochs of Earth's History:** It outlines three significant epochs: Adam to Moses, Moses to Christ, and Christ to the Second Coming.
- **Preaching Before the Flood:** This chapter discusses preaching during the time of Noah and Enoch, refuting the idea that those destroyed in the flood received a second chance after Jesus' death.

- **No Second Chances After Death:** It argues against the idea of second chances after death, stating that one's fate is determined before death.
- **Jesus' Death:** It emphasizes that Jesus was truly dead between his crucifixion and resurrection, and was not preaching to spirits in Hades during that time.
- **Wages of Sin:** It asserts that the wages of sin are death, not eternal fiery punishment, and that Jesus paid for our sins through his death.
- **Satan's Deception:** It claims that the devil deceives people into believing God is vindictive and seeks to torture people eternally.
- **Today is the Day of Salvation:** It encourages readers to choose salvation today, as there are no second chances after death.

Dear friends,

The Two Resurrections.

As distinguished in Revelation 20, there is a resurrection of life and a resurrection of condemnation. These two resurrections occur at opposite ends of a 1,000-year period. The resurrection of the righteous occurs at the beginning of the 1,000 years, while the resurrection of the condemned occurs on Judgment Day at the end of the 1,000 years.

The State of the Dead Before Judgment.

From the moment a person dies until Judgment Day, they are dead; they do not suffer in a lake of fire. The notion of a devil with horns, a tail, and a pitchfork originates from Greek mythology. You may have heard of "fire and brimstone" preachers, and if you are familiar with Reformed churches, you might know of a sermon by Jonathan Edwards that addresses God's anger and Hellfire.

Annihilationism and Reactions.

Today, I want to emphasize that discussing annihilationism—suggesting that the wicked are ultimately destroyed rather than tormented eternally—can provoke strong reactions from many evangelical Christians. Some may deny that individuals like me are not considered Christians if we assert that hell does not exist now or deny that it will torment people forever.

Judgment Belongs to God.

Honestly, this matter is not about me at all. The judgment and condemnation they express are ultimately directed at God himself; this is a matter between them and God. For the remainder of this message, I want to clarify what is happening among those preachers who focus on hell, fire, and brimstone.

Atheism and Anger Towards a Misunderstood God.

First, it's important to note that many have turned away from Christianity and have become atheists as a result of this teaching. They often do so boldly and rebelliously, claiming they are atheists. However, in reality, they are just angry at God. They reject the idea of a deity who would punish people, often only living for 35 or 40 years, with eternal torment. They refuse to worship a God they view as vindictive, and I can understand their perspective. This portrayal does not reflect the God of Abraham; rather, it resembles the devil.

Contrasting God and Satan Regarding Torment.

Just ask yourself: Between the two choices—Jesus Christ and Satan—who is more likely to torment people in fire for all eternity vindictively? If the devil had the authority and power to do so, would he not seize the opportunity to torture everyone on this planet forever? Would he ever come to a repentant mindset? Would he ever soften his heart and say, "I think they've suffered enough; let's stop"? No, I believe that if the devil had the ability, he would indeed torture people in fire for all eternity. He would never soften his heart, never repent, and never change his mind; his torment would be relentless.

Satan is filled with hatred; he is a murderer from the beginning, just like Cain. If he had the authority and power, he would make the suffering as severe as possible, and it would never end.

Jesus on Punishment and Judgment.

Does that accurately describe Jesus? I argue that it does not. Does Jesus teach about everlasting punishment? Yes, He does. Does he teach that Judgment Day will have people who weep and gnash their teeth? Yes, Jesus does teach that Judgment Day is awful and horrifying. Does he teach that Judgment Day is worse than any judgment given by men? Yes, the worst that men can do is not worthy of comparison to what God will do on Judgment Day to the lost. Jesus teaches that Judgment Day is truly that bad and awful.

Jesus' Teaching Aligns with the Old Testament.

However, does Jesus' teaching about the destruction of the wicked equate to Greek mythology? Are his teachings in harmony with the Greek mythology view of Hades? No, they are not. How do I

know this? Because in every instance where Jesus warns about the lake of fire and the destruction of the wicked, He is quoting from the Old Testament.

In every instance, the Old Testament talks about ends in ashes, describing how the saints will tread on the ashes of the wicked. The reference to "their worm never dies" does not mean that people are being tormented in fire for eternity. Instead, it specifically refers to worms that consume the carcasses that have been destroyed by fire—carcasses that have turned to ashes.

The Wicked Become Ashes.

In other words, these worms travel through the Earth, but the dirt they traverse for all eternity consists of the ashes of the wicked. So, where are the wicked? They are in dust and ashes. Are they being tormented by fire literally forever and ever?

The Example of Sodom and Gomorrah and Eternal Fire.

The question is answered when we study what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah. While they are not burning right now, the Bible teaches that Sodom and Gomorrah are currently suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. It is essential to separate the concepts of Greek mythology from the biblical teachings on the destruction of the wicked. These two topics belong in completely different categories and should not be merged.

Warning Against Blending Idolatry and Christianity.

The Apostle Paul warned us against blending idolatry with Christianity. We must clearly distinguish between idolatry, which involves the worship of the dead, and the beliefs held by the Greeks and Romans regarding spirits after death. This distinction is important to understand what the Bible teaches about death and the punishment of the wicked, such as the lake of fire.

Eternal Punishment Views and Salvation.

Let's address the question of the two views regarding the lake of fire: one that sees it as an event that ends in ashes, and the other that views it as an ongoing punishment for all eternity. The key question is whether our beliefs about this topic are a matter of salvation. If someone believes in the pagan view, will they lose their salvation because of it? No, I'm not suggesting that it's a salvation issue in that sense. However, I want to warn you that a false understanding of the lake of fire can lead to a distorted view of God Himself.

Degrees of Punishment.

The mercy of the Lord endures forever, and God is just. He will punish everyone justly in the lake of fire, but it is important to note that not everyone will receive the same punishment. Jesus warned

that those who do many things wrong will receive many stripes, while those who do fewer wrongs will receive fewer stripes.

The false doctrine claims that everyone experiences the same eternal torment. In contrast, the true understanding of the lake of fire differentiates the degrees of punishment. The suffering lasts for one day, and those who receive the most severe punishment will be tormented day and night. For them, their torment will seem endless, while those who have done fewer wrongs but are still found guilty will receive fewer stripes.

Illustrating Physical Punishment.

Can you imagine being tormented like a martyr burned at the stake? There's a story of a man whose executioners were so incompetent that they couldn't start a fire properly. It kept going out. A man was on a stake, begging for someone to put him out of his misery because he had been burning, and then the fire would go out. Then he would be burning, and then the fire would go out, and his legs would be burned off, and his arms would be burned off. All he had was his core and his body, yet he was still alive. Jesus described something similar when he said to cut off your right hand; it's better to enter heaven with one arm than to enter Hades with both.

Destruction of Physical Bodies.

Destruction is coming, and it will be a physical punishment. People will have bodies with eyes, legs, feet, hands, and arms. And they're gonna be burned up just like this man that was burned up at the stake. And the eyewitnesses of this man's martyrdom testified that he was on that stake for a very long time. But eventually. His life was extinguished. And his body was completely burned up.

Unquenchable Fire and Its Outcome.

On judgment day, different degrees of punishment will be administered. Some executioners were confident yet unsure of how to begin a fire. Some people died quickly, in contrast to others who endured being on the stake for one or two hours, with the fire being extinguished repeatedly. Jesus said that this fire will not be quenched.

When Judgment Day begins, the fire will not be extinguished until it has completed its task. It will leave nothing behind — no roots or branches, just stubble and ashes. The fire on Judgment Day will not be quenched; it will consume all the wicked, including the devil and the fallen angels. Judgment Day will conclude within 24 hours.

God's Justice and Glory.

I want to contrast a troubling idea about God—that He must punish people for all eternity in fire. While it is true that God will be just and will execute judgment on the wicked, we must also highlight

His glory. The devil, the fallen angels, and others, such as the beast and the false prophet, will receive just punishments for their wrongdoings on Judgment Day.

Determining the Duration of Punishment.

Those who commit lesser offenses will face lesser punishments; they might be burned in a fire and consumed in just five minutes rather than suffering for an extended period like the devil, the beast, and the false prophet. The lost will be condemned and thrown alive into the lake of fire. During the thousand years, when the books are opened, the focus will be on determining the duration of their punishment.

The Saints Will Judge Angels.

The Apostle Paul mentions that the Saints will judge the angels, specifically the fallen angels who were cast out of heaven. The Saints will decide how long their punishment will last, but God sets a limit: it cannot exceed one day. It must be less than 24 hours, as the Saints will tread on their ashes on the same day, not the next day.

The Experience of Torment.

So, if you can imagine being a martyr tied to a stake and burned alive? Even if that executioner was competent and the execution lasted for 5 minutes. Can you imagine being burned with fire for 5 minutes? Being burned with fire for just 5 seconds. Is awful? Being alive while enduring torment for just 5 minutes is unimaginable. Consider those who will suffer for 5 hours, or even 10, 15, or perhaps up to 23 hours. Can you imagine being tormented by fire for as long as 23 hours? What I believe the Scripture describes is that it will seem like forever. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Epochs of Earth's History.

Throughout Earth's history, there have been three significant epochs or periods:

1. From Adam to Moses
2. From Moses to Christ
3. From Christ to the Second Coming of Christ

The First Epoch: Before and After the Flood.

The first epoch, the initial part of Earth's history, is further divided into two segments: before the flood and after the flood, leading up to Moses. The period after the flood includes Abraham and his descendants, who entered Egypt and were later delivered from it, as detailed in the Old Testament.

Before Abraham and the Tower of Babel described in Genesis 11, there was the time before the flood. This era leads to Noah, his three sons, their wives, and the animals entering Noah's ark.

Preaching Before the Flood.

A common interpretation of Jesus' preaching to spirits in prison, referenced in Peter's epistles, suggests that those who were destroyed in the flood received a second chance after Jesus died and descended into Hades. However, upon studying Scripture, one finds that Enoch preached about the second coming even before the flood. Noah is also described as a preacher of righteousness; throughout the entire time he was preparing the ark, he invited people to come inside once it was completed, before the judgment day, and the door was shut, leading to the world's destruction through a catastrophic flood.

The Lineage of Seth and Preachers.

Thus, the pre-flood period already had its preachers, who were descendants of Seth. After Cain murdered Abel, Adam and Eve had another son, Seth, who is significant in this narrative. According to Josephus, Adam and Eve had over 60 children, but Seth's lineage is crucial as it leads down to Noah, including notable figures like Methuselah and Enoch.

The Prison of Unresponsiveness.

The righteous men mentioned were the preachers who spoke to the spirits in prison. This prison was unresponsive because these spirits had already been preached to and had the opportunity to repent of their sins. They were given a chance to escape the destruction brought about by the flood, but they rejected that invitation.

The Second Epoch: Moses to Christ.

The next age or period in history, from Moses to Christ, saw God making a covenant with Israel while excluding everyone else from that covenant. This covenant involved the sanctuary and required animal sacrifices. Those who performed these sacrifices according to the Law of Moses did so in faith, trusting that God would send His Son as the Lamb of God to atone for our sins.

Inclusion of Gentiles and Abolition of the Law.

Individuals from other nations were allowed to become proselytes and partake in Abraham's covenant through circumcision. However, this arrangement was only temporary. It was permanently resolved when Jesus died on the cross. According to Ephesians 2, Christ's death broke down the barrier between Israel and the Gentiles. Since that time, the Law of Moses has been abolished; it no longer serves as a dividing wall. Now, everyone—whether Jew or Gentile—who believes in the Gospel is saved by faith.

The Third Epoch: Christ to the Second Coming.

This brings us to the third epoch or age of the Earth, which is defined as the period from Christ's death on the cross to His second coming. A question arises about whether Jesus preached to the spirits in prison, specifically to those who lived before the flood. The popular interpretation suggests a misleading idea: the notion of second chances—that even after death, one can change one's mind and accept the Gospel.

The False Hope of Second Chances After Death.

Many people might wish that were true. They would love to live their lives indulging in sin—sexual immorality, drunkenness, partying, and seeking pleasure in this life—only to be offered the Gospel by Christ after death, giving them a second chance to change their minds. However, this scenario assumes a dire situation, where individuals are tormented in hell yet presented with a way out.

No Opportunity After Death.

Unfortunately, reality does not support this idea. According to Jesus' teachings, once you die, it is too late to change your mind. You must be vigilant because you do not know when the Second Coming will occur. When it does, it will be too late to switch sides; thus, you must stay prepared.

The Days of Noah as a Parallel.

Jesus indicated that the second coming would resemble the times of Noah. People were eating, drinking, marrying, and building until the flood came and destroyed them. Similarly, once the second coming takes place, just as it was too late to enter the ark after the flood began, it will be too late to change one's fate.

The Pagan Idea of Jesus Preaching in Hades.

This false teaching claims that Jesus was conscious after He died on the cross and went to a fiery place called Hades, where He preached to the dead. This idea is pagan and undermines the Gospel itself. Jesus truly died on the cross. From the moment of His death at 3:00 PM on Good Friday until His resurrection on Sunday morning, Jesus was dead. While this is a mystery beyond our comprehension, it is vital to understand that Jesus was indeed dead; He was placed in the tomb. The wages of sin are death, and Jesus died for our sins according to Scripture.

Jesus Was Truly Dead.

It is important to realize and believe the Gospel: that Jesus died for our sins. While He was in the grave and descended into Hell, He was dead. He wasn't preaching to anyone; He was dead. The narrative that Jesus was still alive somehow, like a ghost, and that all the people before the flood

were also alive as ghosts being tortured in a fiery place, as the Greeks believed about Hades, is not scriptural. It does not align with what the Holy Bible teaches; instead, it reflects the beliefs of the Greeks and Romans in the ancient world.

No Second Chances After Death.

This idea suggests a second opportunity to change one's mind after death, which contradicts Scripture. Once you die, you cannot change your mind; you are reserved until Judgment Day. You remain in the grave until the resurrection of condemnation, which occurs at the end of the thousand years.

Clarity on the Second Resurrection.

This text is written in plain language so that even a child can read and understand it. There should be no confusion about the timing of the second resurrection of the wicked, which clearly happens at the end of the 1,000 years—it hasn't occurred yet. Paul warned against false teachers who claim that the resurrection has already taken place. The idea that condemned souls leave their bodies and immediately go to hell to be tortured in fire after death contradicts Scripture on many levels, making me wonder where even to start listing these contradictions.

Contradictions with God's Justice and Nature.

For example, this teaching portrays God as unjust. It implies that people who committed minor sins thousands of years ago will be punished for a longer duration than individuals like Hitler or Stalin, who murdered millions simply because they died first. Those who committed lesser offenses end up being tortured longer under this false notion. This contradicts Jesus' teaching that those who commit fewer sins will receive lighter punishment.

This contradicts God's very nature. The Scriptures describe a future Judgment Day, highlighting that God is merciful and long-suffering. He is currently waiting until that day to enact His judgment on the wicked. On Judgment Day, He will demonstrate wrath without mercy, but this day of wrath is limited to just one singular moment—the great day of God Almighty, Judgment Day.

God's Longsuffering and Future Wrath.

At present, God is showing long suffering, even reserving judgment for fallen angels until that day. They are not being punished right now; they are in the abyss, essentially dead. God's wrath will be poured out without any mixture, but it will occur in one day, and then it will be over—the conclusion—ending in the lake of fire—results in the second death. Romans 6:23 clearly teaches that the wages of sin are death.

The Wages of Sin: Death, Not Eternal Torment.

In contrast, an alternate false doctrine claims that the wages of sin are eternal fiery punishment. If the wages of sin were truly eternal punishment, then Jesus would not have paid for our sins. However, if the wages of sin are death, and if Jesus truly died on the cross, then He fully paid for our sins—He satisfied the wages of death.

If death required eternal torture and fire, then Jesus would not have satisfied those wages; He would need to go to a fiery place of torment and remain there forever.

Contradictions Regarding Ghosts and Disembodied Spirits.

Alright, let's outline some contradictions that are irreconcilable with the Bible. If you cling to the idea of eternal fire and the belief in ghosts—entities that exist in a disembodied state after death—that is at odds with scriptural teachings. For instance, the notion that Jesus became a ghost and went to a place where other disembodied spirits exist to preach to them or the belief that saints become ghosts in heaven, waiting for their angelic bodies at the second coming, contradicts what the Bible states. This perspective blends idolatry with Christianity, confusing the clear messages found in Scripture.

Satan's Deception and Distorted View of God.

Friends, the devil is your adversary; he is deceitful and aims to destroy you. He wants you to believe that God is vindictive and seeks to torture people eternally through horrific means like fire. He twists the message, suggesting that Jesus desires to punish the wicked forever. Moreover, the devil may lead you to think that Jesus didn't truly die on the cross but rather continued to exist even during that time and preached in prison to other spirits suffering in Hades or hell.

God's True Character: Love and Longsuffering.

These beliefs obscure your understanding of God. The truth is that God is love; He is long-suffering. Right now, He is not punishing anyone with fire. Judgment is reserved until the day of reckoning, which lasts for just one day, and then it is over. For all eternity, the saints and angels in heaven will understand that God withheld His anger and only expressed it once. His wrath is not ongoing; instead, He exemplifies self-control. He is not prone to fits of rage, nor is He eternally vindictive, holding grudges or torturing people. Such doctrines are fundamentally flawed.

Inconsistency with Jesus' Character.

How can anyone read about Jesus in the Bible, who died for the sins of the world, and believe that He will torture people forever? This doctrine is inconsistent with the character of God and aligns more with what Satan would do if he had the authority of God to punish; he would do so endlessly.

Today is the Day of Salvation.

There are no second chances. Hebrews 3-4 remind us that today is the day of your salvation. As long as you are alive, you have the choice; once you die, it is too late to decide. Your destiny—whether it leads you into the city of God or outside it, facing judgment—is settled at that point. There will be no switching sides. It's going to be like the days of Noah: you are either inside the ark when the flood comes or outside.

No Changing Position at the Second Coming.

You will be either safe inside the city of God or outside of it. No one will be able to change their position. The devil wants you to believe in second chances. He promotes the idea of a pre-tribulation rapture, suggesting that after this secret rapture, those who are lost will have another opportunity to become Christians and be saved. This is a deception.

Refuting the Second Chance Interpretation of Noah's Flood.

Some people misinterpret the story of those who perished in Noah's flood, believing they had a second chance when Jesus died. This is a false doctrine. Today is the day of your salvation. Don't let your past hurts hold you back. Choose today to believe in Jesus, repent of your sins, and get baptized. Bear fruit in your life and demonstrate real change. Please don't wait until you die, thinking you can repent then; it will be too late.

May God's grace and peace be with you.

In Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

Mr. David Michael Curtis

Death—Immortal Souls?

Or a Temporary Sleep while Awaiting the Resurrection?

Cherry Picking Fallacy, the Fallacy of Incomplete Evidence.

The [Cherry Picking Fallacy](#), also known as the [fallacy of incomplete evidence](#), occurs when someone selectively presents individual cases or data that seem to confirm a particular position while [ignoring](#) a significant portion of related and similar cases or data that may [contradict](#) that position. Below is an example of the [Cherry Picking Fallacy](#),

The Doctrine that ‘Saints Go Directly to Heaven at Death’ Is Based on Incomplete Evidence.

Here are all the verses in this chapter.

Genesis 2:7; 3:4; 25:8; Exodus 7:11; Deuteronomy 31:16; 1 Samuel 28:3-25; 1 Kings 2:10; 11:21,43; 14:20,31; 15:8,24; 16:6,28; 22:40,50; 2 Kings 8:24; 10:35; 13:9,13; 14:16,21-22,29; 15:7,22,38; 16:20; 20:21; 21:18; 24:6; Job 4:17; 14:12,21; 17:13; 27:3; Psalm 115:17; 146:4; Ecclesiastes 9:5-6,10; 12:7; Ezekiel 18:20; Daniel 2:2; Matthew 9:24-25; 13:43; 22:30; Mark 5:39-42; 12:25; Luke 8:49-56; 20:36; John 5:28-29; 11:11-14,23,26-27,34,39,43-44; 20:17; Acts 2:29,34; 5:2,29; 16:16-18; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4,50-55; 2 Corinthians 5:1-8; Philippians 1:21-24; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Timothy 6:15-16; 2 Timothy 4:6-8; James 2:26; 2 Peter 3:10; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 12:9; 16:3,14; 21:4; 22:12

Here are all the verses used by those who teach ‘Saints Go Directly to Heaven at Death.’

2 Corinthians 5:6-8; Philippians 1:23; Luke 16:22-24; 23:43

The Pattern of King David

Acts 2:29, 34 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of **the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.** For **David is not ascended into the heavens:** but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand

Step 1. King David died and is now dead. v.2

Step 2. David was buried. He is in his grave. v. 29

Step 3. David has not been resurrected. The resurrection happens at the “Second Coming.”

Step 4. “David is not ascended into the heavens.” This will happen at the second

coming of Jesus Christ. 1 Thess. 4:13-18.

The Pattern of Jesus Christ

Step 1. Death

Step 2. Burial

Step 3. Resurrection

Step 4. Ascension to Heaven

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 **CHRIST DIED** for our sins according to the scriptures; And that **HE WAS BURIED**, and that **HE ROSE AGAIN** the third day according to the scriptures:

John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, **Touch me not**; for **I AM NOT YET ASCENDED** to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, **I ASCEND UNTO MY FATHER**, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

Death Til the Resurrection Is Like A Twinkling Of An Eye

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 ¶ Behold, I shew you a mystery; we *shall not all sleep*, but **we shall all be changed, IN A MOMENT, IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE, AT THE LAST TRUMP**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

This Mortal (This Flesh and Blood Body)

...Shall Have Put On Immortality (An Angel Like Body)

Matthew 13:43 Then shall **THE RIGHTEOUS SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN IN THE KINGDOM OF THEIR FATHER**. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

1 Corinthians 15:53-54 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

There is an Earthly House

& An Eternal Body That Is Now in The Heavens (AN ANGEL LIKE BODY)

Matthew 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, **BUT ARE AS THE ANGELS OF GOD IN HEAVEN**.

2 Corinthians 5:1-2 ¶ For we know that **if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.** **2** For in this we groan, earnestly desiring ***TO BE CLOTHED*** upon with our house which is from heaven:

Saints Never Exist In A “Naked State,” Without A Body

There is an earthly house (this body) and a heavenly body (angel-like) and there is no “naked” existence in between, we are never “unclothed” without a body.

2 Corinthians 5:3-4 If so be that being clothed ***WE SHALL NOT BE FOUND NAKED.*** **4** For we that are in *this* tabernacle do groan, being burdened: ***NOT FOR THAT WE WOULD BE UNCLOTHED,*** but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, ***WHEN HE SHALL APPEAR, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM;*** for we shall see him as he is.

James 2:26 The body without the spirit is dead.

When we are “Clothed”, or “Changed”

From Our Mortal Into Our Immortal Bodies “At The Last Trump.”

1 Corinthians 15:50-55 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. ¶ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

While In This Earthly House We Are Absent From The Lord

Mark 12:25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; ***BUT ARE AS THE ANGELS WHICH ARE IN HEAVEN.***

2 Corinthians 5:6 Therefore *we are* always confident, knowing that, **whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:**

1 Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.**

Absent From the Body, and to be Present with the Lord

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, / say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

*Note: Verse 8 must be understood within the context of verses 1-7. Something we explored above. There is an **earthly house** (this body) and a **heavenly body** (angel like) and **there is no state of being naked in between without a body**. “Willing rather to be absent from the body” (means, Paul was willing to die), and to be present with the Lord. From Paul’s perspective, from the moment of his death until he would see the Second Coming of Jesus Christ would be a twinkling of an eye—he would be unaware of any time that has passed. According to 1 Corinthians 15:51-55 Paul is now asleep (dead) and will be **changed from mortal to immortal—at the last trump**).*

Having a Desire to Depart, and to be with Christ

Philippians 1:21-24 ¶ For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For **I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire TO DEPART, AND TO BE WITH CHRIST**; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

Next Let’s see how Paul understood his own **departure**:

The Time of My Departure (Paul’s Martyrdom) is at Hand

2 Timothy 4:6-7 For I am now ready to be offered, and **THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE IS AT HAND**.
7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Pay careful attention to the very next verse...

Paul Doesn’t Receive His Crown Until Christ’s Appearing

Paul understood being “present with the Lord” to mean that he would receive his crown, at Jesus Christ’s appearance!

2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, **shall give me AT THAT DAY**: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love **HIS APPEARING**.

Let’s Review The Pattern of Jesus Christ

- Step 1.** Death
- Step 2.** Burial
- Step 3.** Resurrection
- Step 4.** Ascension to Heaven

The Pattern of Paul

Step 1. Paul died, Paul is now dead.

Step 2. Paul was buried, Paul is in his grave.

Step 3. Paul has not been resurrected. The resurrection is at “his appearing.”

Step 4. Paul has not ascended into the heavens. This will happen after the resurrection, at the second coming of Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

The Maid Is Not Dead, But Sleepeth

Matthew 9:24-25 He said unto them, Give place: **FOR THE MAID IS NOT DEAD, BUT SLEEPETH.** And they laughed him to scorn. But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose.

Mark 5:39-42 And when he was come in, he saith unto them, **Why make ye this ado, and weep? THE DAMSEL IS NOT DEAD, BUT SLEEPETH.** And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying. And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, **Talitha cumi;** which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was *of the age* of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

Luke 8:49-56 While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master. But when Jesus heard *it*, he answered him, saying, **Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.** And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden. And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, **WEEP NOT; SHE IS NOT DEAD, BUT SLEEPETH.** And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, **Maid, arise.** And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat. And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done.

Thy Brother Shall Rise Again

John 11:23 Jesus saith unto her, **THY BROTHER SHALL RISE AGAIN.**

Whosoever Believeth In Me Shall Never Die

John 11:26-27 And **WHOSOEVER LIVETH AND BELIEVETH IN ME SHALL NEVER DIE. BELIEVEST THOU THIS?** 27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: **I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God,** which should come into the world.

Where Have Ye Laid Him?

John 11:34 And said, **WHERE HAVE YE LAID HIM?** They said unto him, Lord, come and see.

Take Ye Away The Stone

John 11:39 Jesus said, **TAKE YE AWAY THE STONE.** Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been *dead* four days.

Lazarus, Come Forth

John 11:43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, **LAZARUS, COME FORTH.**

Loose Him, And Let Him Go

John 11:44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, **LOOSE HIM, AND LET HIM GO.**

We Shall Not All Sleep

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 ¶ Behold, I shew you a mystery; **WE SHALL NOT ALL SLEEP**, but we shall all be changed, **52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Abraham, Isaac & Jacob Were “Gathered To His People”

Genesis 25:8 Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.

David Slept With His Fathers

1 Kings 2:10 So **DAVID SLEPT WITH HIS FATHERS, AND WAS BURIED** in the city of David.

Acts 2:29, 34 The patriarch **DAVID... IS BOTH DEAD AND BURIED**, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. David is **NOT** ascended into the heavens.

1. David slept with his Fathers (**1 Kings 11:21**)
2. Solomon slept with his Fathers (**1 Kings 11:43**)
3. Jeroboam slept with his Fathers (**1 Kings 14:20**)
4. Rehoboam slept with his Fathers (**1 Kings 14:31**)
5. Abijam slept with his Fathers (**1 Kings 15:8**)
6. Asa slept with his Fathers (**1 Kings 15:24**)
7. Baasha slept with his Fathers (**1 Kings 16:6**)
8. Omri slept with his Fathers (**1 Kings 16:28**)
9. Ahab slept with his Fathers (**1 Kings 22:40**)
10. Jehoshaphat slept with his Fathers (**1 Kings 22:50**)
11. Joram slept with his Fathers (**2 Kings 8:24**)
12. Jehu slept with his Fathers (**2 Kings 10:35**)
13. Jehoahaz slept with his Fathers (**2 Kings 13:9**)
14. Joash slept with his Fathers (**2 Kings 13:13**)
15. Jehoash slept with his Fathers (**2 Kings 14:16**)
16. Azariah slept with his Fathers (**2 Kings 14:21,22**)
17. Jeroboam slept with his Fathers (**2 Kings 14:29**)
18. Azariah slept with his Fathers (**2 Kings 15:7**)
19. Menahem slept with his Fathers (**2 Kings 15:22**)
20. Jotham slept with his Fathers (**2 Kings 15:38**)
21. Ahaz slept with his Fathers (**2 Kings 16:20**)
22. Hezekiah slept with his Fathers (**2 Kings 20:21**)
23. Manasseh slept with his Fathers (**2 Kings 21:18**)
24. Jehoiakim slept with his Fathers (**2 Kings 24:6**)

Concerning Them Which Are Asleep

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ¶ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, **concerning them which are asleep**, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **them also which sleep in Jesus** will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord **shall not prevent them which are asleep**. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and **the dead in Christ shall rise** first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Death, According to the Apostle Paul

Today, we are going to look at several places where Paul gives us some incredible details about what happens to the saints in between death and the resurrection. A state that is repeatedly called in scripture in both the Old and New Testaments by both Christ and the Apostles, "Sleep." In this rare instance, for clarity's sake, I will be using the NLT, but you are welcome to look up each of these passages within the KJV or any Bible translation you prefer.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 NLT It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. 43 Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. 44 They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.

MORTAL HUMAN BODIES	IMMORTAL ANGEL BODIES
Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die	They will be raised to live forever
Our bodies are buried in brokenness	They will be raised in glory
They are buried in weakness	They will be raised in strength
They are buried as natural human bodies	They will be raised as spiritual bodies
There are natural bodies	There are also spiritual bodies

1 Corinthians 15:50-57 NLT What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever. 51 But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! 52 It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. we will all be transformed. And we who are living will also be transformed. 53 For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. 54 Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” 56 For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. 57 But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

MORTAL HUMAN BODIES	IMMORTAL ANGEL BODIES
Our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God	We will not all die, but we will all be transformed
These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever	It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. we will all be transformed
For our dying bodies must be transformed	We who are living will also be transformed
When our dying bodies have been transformed	Into immortal bodies

2 Corinthians 5:1-10 NLT For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. 2 We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. 3 For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies. 4 While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life. 5 God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit. 6 So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. 7 For we live by believing and not by seeing. 8 Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. 9 So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please him. 10 For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

MORTAL HUMAN BODIES	IMMORTAL ANGEL BODIES
When this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body)	We will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands.
We grow weary in our present bodies	We long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing
These dying bodies will be swallowed up by life	We want to put on our new bodies
As long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord	We would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord

“We will not be spirits without bodies” 2 Corinthians 5:3

Disembodied: separated from or existing without the body.: "a disembodied ghost".

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NLT And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. 15 We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. 17 Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. 18 So encourage each other with these words.

1. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. 1 Thessalonians 4:16
2. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. 1 Thessalonians 4:16
3. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air 1 Thessalonians 4:17
 - a. We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died 1 Thessalonians 4:15
 - b. God will bring back with him the believers who have died 1 Thessalonians 4:14

1 Thessalonians 4:14 are not disembodied spirits/ghosts of dead saints. **“We will not be spirits without bodies”** 2 Corinthians 5:3 (NLT).. Rather, 1 Thessalonians 4:14 are the resurrected dead, and those remaining alive who are translated and then raised to meet the Lord in the air together in v. 17.

According to the Apostle Paul, there are two bodies: one mortal, flesh and blood, that dies, and, secondly, a heavenly, immortal angel-like body now in heaven. Those who die do not exist as disembodied spirits/ghosts in limbo, in between inhabiting these two bodies. Rather, that in-between state is called “sleep.” Individuals who die are unaware of any time that elapses. This in-between sleep state seems to last no more than a twinkling of an eye to those who have died. At the last trump, the dead are raised from the grave, changed into their new angel-like bodies, as if they had changed clothes.

Death, "Do Souls Die?" Questions & Answers

1. How Did Humans Get Here in the First Place?

“The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being” (**Genesis 2:7**).

Answer: God made us from dust in the beginning.

2. What Happens When a Person Dies?

“Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it” (**Ecclesiastes 12:7**).

Answer: The body turns to dust again, and the spirit goes back to God, who gave it. The spirit of every person who dies—whether saved or unsaved—returns to God at death.

3. What Is The “Spirit” That Returns to God at Death?

“The body without the spirit is dead” (**James 2:26**).

“The spirit of God is in my nostrils” (**Job 27:3**).

Answer: The spirit that returns to God at death is the breath of life. Nowhere in all of God’s book does the “spirit” have any life, wisdom, or feeling after a person dies. It is the “breath of life” and nothing more.

4. What is a "Soul"?

“The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (**Genesis 2:7**).

Answer: A soul is a living being. A soul is always a combination of two things: body plus breath. A soul cannot exist unless body and breath are combined. God’s word teaches that we are souls—not that we have souls.

5. Do Souls Die?

“The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (**Ezekiel 18:20**).

“Every living soul died in the sea” (**Revelation 16:3**).

Answer: According to God's word, souls do die! We are souls, and souls die. Man is mortal (**Job 4:17**). **ONLY GOD IS IMMORTAL** (**1 Timothy 6:15, 16**). The concept of an undying, immortal soul is not found in the Bible, which teaches that all souls that sin are subject to death.

6. Do Good People Go to Heaven When They Die?

"All who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth" (**John 5:28-29**).

"David ... is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ... For David did not ascend into the heavens" (**Acts 2:29, 34**).

"If I wait, the grave is mine house" (**Job 17:13**).

Answer: No. People do not go to heaven or to hell at death. They don't go anywhere—but they wait in their graves for the resurrection.

7. How Much Does One Know Or Comprehend After Death?

"The living know that they will die; but the Dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun. ... There is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going" (**Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10**).

"The dead do not praise the Lord" (**Psalms 115:17**).

Answer: God says that the dead know absolutely nothing!

8. But Can't the Dead Communicate with The Living, And Aren't They Aware of What the Living Are Doing?

"Man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, they will not awake nor be roused from their sleep. ... His sons come to honor, and he does not know it; they are brought low, and he does not perceive it" (**Job 14:12, 21**).

"Nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun" (**Ecclesiastes 9:6**).

Answer: No. The Dead cannot contact the living, nor do they know what the living are doing. They are dead. Their thoughts have perished (**Psalms 146:4**).

9. Jesus Called the Unconscious State of The Dead “Sleep” In John 11:11–14. How Long Will They Sleep?

“Man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more” (**Job 14:12**).

“The day of the Lord will come ... in which the heavens will pass away” (**2 Peter 3:10**).

Answer: The dead will sleep until the great day of the Lord at the end of the world. In death humans are totally unconscious with no activity or knowledge of any kind.

10. What Happens To The Righteous Dead At The Second Coming Of Christ?

“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work” (**Revelation 22:12**).

“The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout. ... And the dead in Christ will rise. ... And thus we shall always be with the Lord” (**1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17**).

“We shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye ... and the dead will be raised incorruptible. ... For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (**1 Corinthians 15:51–53**).

Answer: They will be rewarded. They will be raised, given immortal bodies, and caught up to meet the Lord in the air. There would be no purpose in a resurrection if people were taken to heaven at death.

11. What Was the Devil’s First Lie On Earth?

“The serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die’” (**Genesis 3:4**).

“That serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan” (**Revelation 12:9**).

Answer: You will not die.

12. Why Did The Devil Lie To Eve About Death? Could This Subject Be More Important Than We Think?

Answer: The devil’s lie that we will not die is one of the pillars of his teachings. For thousands of years, he has worked powerful, deceptive miracles to trick people into thinking they are receiving messages from the spirits of the dead. (Examples: magicians of Egypt—**Exodus 7:11**; witch of Endor—**1 Samuel 28:3–25**; Sorcerers—**Daniel 2:2**; A slave girl—**Acts 16:16–18**.)

13. Do Devils Really Work Miracles?

“For they are the spirits of devils, working Miracles” (**Revelation 16:14**).

“False christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (**Matthew 24:24**).

Answer: Yes indeed! Devils work incredibly convincing miracles (**Revelation 13:13, 14**). Satan will appear as an angel of Light (**2 Corinthians 11:14**) and, even more shocking, as Christ Himself (**Matthew 24:23, 24**). The universal feeling will be that Christ and His Angels are leading out in a fantastic worldwide revival. The entire emphasis will seem so spiritual and be so supernatural that only God’s elect will not be deceived.

14. Why Will God's People Not Be Deceived?

“They received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (**Acts 17:11**).

“If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no Light in them” (**Isaiah 8:20**).

Answer: God’s people will know from their study of His book that the dead are dead, not alive. They will know that a “spirit” claiming to be a deceased loved one is really a devil! God’s people will reject all teachers and miracle workers who claim to receive special “light” or work miracles by contacting the spirits of the dead. And God’s people will likewise reject as dangerous and false all teachings that claim the dead are alive in any form, anywhere.

15. What Did God command should be done to people who taught that the dead were alive?

“A man or a woman who is a medium, or who has familiar spirits, shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones” (**Leviticus 20:27**).

Answer: God insisted that mediums and others with “familiar spirits” (who claimed to be able to contact the dead) should be stoned to death. This shows how God regards the false teaching that the dead are alive.

16. Will The Righteous People Who Are Raised In The Resurrection Ever Die Again?

“Those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead ... nor can they die anymore” (**Luke 20:35, 36**).

“God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (**Revelation 21:4**).

Answer: No! Death, sorrow, crying, and tragedy will never enter into God's new kingdom. "When this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory'" (**1 Corinthians 15:54**).

17. Belief In Reincarnation Is Expanding Rapidly Today. Is This Teaching Biblical?

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (**Hebrews 9:27**)

"The living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing. ... Nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun" (**Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6**).

Answer: Almost half the people on earth believe in reincarnation, teaching that the soul never dies but is instead continually reborn in a different kind of body with each succeeding generation. This teaching, however, is contrary to Scripture.

The Bible Says

After death a person: returns to dust (**Psalms 104:29**), knows nothing (**Ecclesiastes 9:5**), possesses no mental powers (**Psalms 146:4**), has nothing to do with anything on earth (**Ecclesiastes 9:6**), does not live (**2 Kings 20:1**), waits in the grave (**Job 17:13**), and continues not (**Job 14:1, 2**).

Satan's Invention

We learned in questions 11 and 12 that Satan invented the teaching that the dead are alive. Reincarnation, channeling, communication with spirits, spirit worship, and the "undying soul" are all inventions of Satan, with one aim to Convince people that when you die you are not really dead. When people believe that the dead are alive, "spirits of devils, working Miracles" (Revelation 16:14) and posing as spirits of the dead will be able to deceive and lead them astray virtually 100 percent of the time (**Matthew 24:24**).

The Death of Christ

Foretold.

Isaiah 53:8. He was taken from prison and from Judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Daniel 9:26. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

Zechariah 13:7. Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

Appointed By God.

Isaiah 53:6. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:10. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for Sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Necessary for the Redemption Of Man.

Luke 24:46. And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the Dead the third day:

Acts 17:3. Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the Dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

Acceptable, As A Sacrifice to God.

Matthew 20:28. Even as The Son Of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Ephesians 5:2. And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.

1 Thessalonians 5:10. Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

Was Voluntary.

Isaiah 53:12. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto Death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the Sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Matthew 26:53. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of Angels?

John 10:17-18. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Was Undeserved.

Isaiah 53:9. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his Death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

MODE OF

Foretold By Christ.

Matthew 20:18-19. Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and The Son Of Man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to Death, And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.

Prefigured.

Numbers 21:8. And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.

John 3:14. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must The Son Of Man be lifted up:

Ignominious.

Hebrews 12:2. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our Faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Accursed.

Galatians 3:13. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of The Law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

Exhibited His Humility.

Philippians 2:8. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto Death, even the Death of the cross.

A Stumbling Block To Jews.

1 Corinthians 1:23. But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

Foolishness To Gentiles.

1 Corinthians 1:18. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:23. But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

Demanded By The Jews.

Matthew 27:22-23. Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

Inflicted By The Gentiles.

Matthew 27:26-35. Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! ...

In The Company Of Malefactors.

Isaiah 53:12. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto Death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the Sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Matthew 27:38. Then were there two Thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left.

Accompanied By Preternatural Signs.

Matthew 27:45. Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

Matthew 27:51-53. And, behold, The Veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the Saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Emblematical Of The Death Unto Sin.

Romans 6:3-8. Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his Death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into Death: that like as Christ was raised up from the Dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his Death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of Sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve Sin. ...

Galatians 2:20. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the Faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Commemorated In The Sacrament Of The Lord's Supper.

Luke 22:19-20. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is The New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

1 Corinthians 11:26-29. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's Death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

The Dead

They who have departed this life.

Genesis 23:2 And Sarah died in Kirjatharba; the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan: and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her.

Genesis 25:8 Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.

Job 1:19 And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are Dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

TERMS USED TO EXPRESS;

Corpses.

2 Kings 19:35 And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all Dead corpses.

Nahum 3:3 The horseman lifteth up both the bright sword and the glittering spear: and there is a multitude of slain, and a great number of carcasses; and there is none end of their corpses; they stumble upon their corpses:

Carcases.

Numbers 14:29 Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,

Numbers 14:32-33 But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness. And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your Whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.

1 Kings 13:24 And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the Ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase.

Those who are not.

Matthew 2:18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

Deceased.

Isaiah 26:14 They are Dead, they shall not live; they are deceased, they shall not rise: therefore hast thou visited and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish.

Matthew 22:25 Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother:

CHARACTERIZED BY

Being without the Spirit.

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is Dead, so Faith without works is Dead also.

Being incapable of motion.

Matthew 28:4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as Dead men.

Revelation 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as Dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the First and the Last:

Ignorance of all human affairs.

Ecclesiastes 9:5 For the living know that they shall die: but the Dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

Absence of all human passions.

Ecclesiastes 9:6 Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.

Inability to glorify God.

Psalms 115:17 The Dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.

Return not to this life.

Job 7:9 As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more.

Job 14:10 But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?

Job 14:14 If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

Eyes of, closed by nearest of kin.

Genesis 46:4 I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes.

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Were washed and laid out.

Acts 9:37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

Were wrapped in lined with spices.

John 19:40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

MOURNING FOR, OFTEN

Very great.

Genesis 27:35 And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing.

Jeremiah 31:15 Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.

Matthew 2:18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

John 11:33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,

Loud and clamorous.

Jeremiah 16:6 Both the great and the small shall die in this land: they shall not be buried, neither shall men lament for them, nor cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them:

Mark 5:38 And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly.

By hired mourners.

Jeremiah 9:17-18 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Consider ye, and call for the mourning women, that they may come; and send for cunning women, that they may come: And let them make haste, and take up a wailing for us, that our eyes may run down with tears, and our eyelids gush out with waters.

With plaintive music.

Jeremiah 48:36 Therefore mine heart shall sound for Moab like pipes, and mine heart shall sound like pipes for the men of Kirheres: because the riches that he hath gotten are perished.

Matthew 9:23 And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise,

Testified by change of apparel.

2 Samuel 14:2 And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto her, I pray thee, feign thyself to be a mourner, and put on now mourning apparel, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that had a long time mourned for the Dead:

Testified by tearing the hair.

Jeremiah 16:7 Neither shall men tear themselves for them in mourning, to comfort them for the Dead; neither shall men give them the cup of consolation to drink for their Father or for their mother.

Testified by covering the head.

2 Samuel 19:4 But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!

Testified by rending the garments.

Genesis 37:34 And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

2 Samuel 3:31 And David said to Joab, and to all the people that were with him, Rend your clothes, and gird you with sackcloth, and mourn before Abner. And king David himself followed the bier.

Lasted many days.

Genesis 37:34 And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

Genesis 50:3 And forty days were fulfilled for him; for so are fulfilled the days of those which are embalmed: and the Egyptians mourned for him threescore and ten days.

Genesis 50:10 And they came to the threshingfloor of Atad, which is beyond Jordan, and there they mourned with a great and very sore lamentation: and he made a mourning for his Father seven days.

Regard often shown to the memory of.

Ruth 1:8 And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the Dead, and with me.

Too soon forgotten.

Psalms 31:12 I am forgotten as a Dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel.

Ecclesiastes 9:5 For the living know that they shall die: but the Dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

Heathenish expressions of grief for, forbidden.

Leviticus 19:28 Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the Dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.

Deuteronomy 14:1-2 Ye are the children of the LORD your God: ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the Dead. For thou Art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath Chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.

All offerings to, forbidden.

Deuteronomy 26:14 I have not eaten thereof in my mourning, neither have I taken away ought thereof for any unclean use, nor given ought thereof for the Dead: but I have hearkened to the voice of the LORD my God, and have done according to all that thou hast commanded me.

Touching of, caused uncleanness.

Numbers 19:11 He that toucheth the Dead body of any man shall be unclean seven days.

Numbers 19:13 Whosoever toucheth the Dead body of any man that is Dead, and purifieth not himself, defileth The Tabernacle of the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from Israel: because the water of separation was not sprinkled upon him, he shall be unclean; his uncleanness is yet upon him.

Numbers 19:16 And whosoever toucheth one that is slain with a sword in the open fields, or a Dead body, or a bone of a man, or a grave, shall be unclean seven days.

In a house rendered it unclean.

Numbers 19:14-15 This is The Law, when a man dieth in a tent: all that come into the tent, and all that is in the tent, shall be unclean seven days. And every open vessel, which hath no covering bound upon it, is unclean.

Even bones of, caused uncleanness.

Numbers 19:16 And whosoever toucheth one that is slain with a sword in the open fields, or a Dead body, or a bone of a man, or a grave, shall be unclean seven days.

2 Chronicles 34:5 And he burnt the bones of the priests upon their Altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.

A priest not to mourn for, except when near of kin.

Leviticus 21:1-3 And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto the priests the sons of Aaron, and say unto them, There shall none be defiled for the Dead among his people: But for his kin, that is near unto him, that is, for his mother, and for his Father, and for his son, and for his daughter, and for his brother, And for his sister a virgin, that is nigh unto him, which hath had no husband; for her may he be defiled.

Ezekiel 44:25 And they shall come at no Dead person to defile themselves: but for Father, or for mother, or for son, or for daughter, for brother, or for sister that hath had no husband, they may defile themselves.

High Priest in no case to mourn for.

Leviticus 21:10-11 And he that is the High Priest among his Brethren, upon whose head the Anointing oil was poured, and that is consecrated to put on the garments, shall not uncover his head, nor rend his clothes; Neither shall he go in to any Dead body, nor defile himself for his Father, or for his mother;

Nazarites not to touch or mourn for.

Numbers 6:6-7 All the days that he separateth himself unto the LORD he shall come at no Dead body. He shall not make himself unclean for his Father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die: because the consecration of his God is upon his head.

Those defiled by, removed from the camp.

Numbers 5:2 Command the children of Israel, that they put out of the camp every leper, and every one that hath an issue, and whosoever is defiled by the Dead:

Uncleanness contracted from, removed by the water separation.

Numbers 19:12 He shall purify himself with it on the third day, and on the Seventh Day he shall be clean: but if he purify not himself the third day, then the Seventh Day he shall not be clean.

Numbers 19:18 And a clean person shall take hyssop, and dip it in the water, and sprinkle it upon the tent, and upon all the vessels, and upon the persons that were there, and upon him that touched a bone, or one slain, or one Dead, or a grave:

Idolaters

Tore themselves for.

Jeremiah 16:7 Neither shall men tear themselves for them in mourning, to comfort them for the Dead; neither shall men give them the cup of consolation to drink for their Father or for their mother.

Offered sacrifices for.

Psalms 106:28 They joined themselves also unto Baalpeor, and ate the sacrifices of the Dead.

Invoked and consulted.

1 Samuel 28:7-8 Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor. And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee.

Consecrated part of their crops to.

Deuteronomy 26:14 I have not eaten thereof in my mourning, neither have I taken away ought thereof for any unclean use, nor given ought thereof for the Dead: but I have hearkened to the voice of the LORD my God, and have done according to all that thou hast commanded me.

The Jews looked for a resurrection from.

Isaiah 26:19 Thy Dead men shall live, together with my Dead body shall they arise. Awake and Sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the Dead.

Acts 24:15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also Allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the Dead, both of the just and unjust.

Instances of, restored to life before Christ.

1 Kings 17:22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.

2 Kings 4:34-36 And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm. Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.

2 Kings 13:21 And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.

Instances of, restored by Christ, ect.

Matthew 9:25 But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose.

Luke 7:15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

John 11:44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, **Loose him, and let him go.**

Acts 9:40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Acts 20:12 And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.

ILLUSTRATIVE OF

Man's state by nature.

2 Corinthians 5:4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were Dead in trespasses and Sins;

Ephesians 2:5 Even when we were Dead in Sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

A state of deep Affliction, ect.

Psalms 88:5 Free among the Dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, whom thou rememberest no more: and they are cut off from thy hand.

Psalms 143:3 For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground; he hath made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have been long Dead.

Isaiah 59:10 We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as Dead men.

Freedom from the power of Sin.

Romans 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are Dead to Sin, live any longer therein?

Romans 6:8 Now if we be Dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

Romans 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be Dead indeed unto Sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Freedom from The Law.

Romans 7:4 Wherefore, my Brethren, ye also are become Dead to The Law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the Dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Faith without works.

1 Timothy 5:6 But she that liveth in pleasure is Dead while she liveth.

James 2:17 Even so Faith, if it hath not works, is Dead, being alone.

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is Dead, so Faith without works is Dead also.

Diviners, ect.

Isaiah 8:19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the Dead?

Impotence.

Genesis 20:3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold, thou Art but a Dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife.

Romans 4:19 And being not weak in Faith, he considered not his own body now Dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the Deadness of Sara's womb:

Death, Natural

By Adam.

Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou Art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 For since by man came Death, by man came also the resurrection of the Dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Consequence of Sin.

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man Sin entered into the world, and Death by Sin; and so Death passed upon all men, for that all have Sinned:

Lot of all.

Ecclesiastes 8:8 There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of Death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the Judgment:

Ordered by God.

Deuteronomy 32:39 See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

Job 14:5 Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;

Puts an end to earthly projects.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Strips of earthly possessions.

Job 1:21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

1 Timothy 6:7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

Levels all ranks.

Job 3:17-19 There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest. There the prisoners rest together; they hear not the voice of the oppressor. The small and great are there; and the Servant is free from his master.

Conquered by Christ.

Romans 6:9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the Dead dieth no more; Death hath no more dominion over him.

Revelation 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was Dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of Hell and of Death.

Abolished by Christ.

2 Timothy 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished Death, and hath brought life and immortality to Light through the Gospel:

Shall finally be destroyed by Christ.

Hosea 13:14 I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from Death: O Death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is Death.

Christ delivers from the fear of.

Hebrews 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of Death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Regard, as at hand.

Job 14:1-2 Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

Prepare for.

2 Kings 20:1 In those days was Hezekiah sick unto Death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.

Pray to be prepared for.

Psalms 39:4 LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.

Psalms 90:12 So Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Consideration of, a motive to diligence.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

When averted for a season, is a motive to increased devotedness.

Psalms 56:12 Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee.

Psalms 118:17 I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

Isaiah 38:18 For the grave cannot praise thee, Death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth.

Isaiah 38:20 The LORD was ready to save me: therefore we will Sing my songs to the stringed instruments all the days of our life in the house of the LORD.

Enoch and Elijah were exempted from.

Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

Hebrews 11:5 By Faith Enoch was translated that he should not see Death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

2 Kings 2:11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and Horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

All shall be raised from.

Acts 24:15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also Allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the Dead, both of the just and unjust.

None subject to, in heaven.

Luke 20:36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the Angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more Death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Illustrates the change produced in conversion.

Romans 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are Dead to Sin, live any longer therein?

Colossians 2:20 Wherefore if ye be Dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,

IS DESCRIBED AS

A sleep.

Deuteronomy 31:16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy Fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.

John 11:11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

The earthly house of this tabernacle being dissolved.

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Putting off this tabernacle.

2 Peter 1:14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

God requiring the soul.

Luke 12:20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Going the way whence there is no return.

Job 16:22 When a few years are come, then I shall go the way whence I shall not return.

Gathering to our people.

Genesis 49:33 And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.

Going down into silence.

Psalms 115:17 The Dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.

Yielding up the ghost.

Acts 5:10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her Dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

Returning to dust.

Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou Art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Psalms 104:29 Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

Being cut down.

Job 14:2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

Fleeing as a shadow.

Job 14:2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

Departing.

Philippians 1:23 For I am in a strait Betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

The Death of Saints

A sleep in Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Is blessed.

Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the Dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Is gain.

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

IS FULL OF

Faith.

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in Faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Peace.

Isaiah 57:2 He shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness.

Hope.

Proverbs 14:32 The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the Righteous hath hope in his Death.

Sometimes desired.

Luke 2:29 Lord, now lettest thou thy Servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

Waited for.

Job 14:14 If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

Met with resignation.

Genesis 50:24 And Joseph said unto his Brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Joshua 23:14 And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.

1 Kings 2:2 I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man;

Met without fear.

1 Corinthians 15:55 O Death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

Precious in God's sight.

Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the Death of his Saints.

God preserves them unto.

Psalms 48:14 For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto Death.

God is with them in.

Psalms 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of Death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Removes from coming evil.

2 Kings 22:20 Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy Fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again.

Isaiah 57:1 The Righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the Righteous is taken away from the evil to come.

LEADS TO

Rest.

Job 3:17 There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest.

2 Thessalonians 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty Angels,

Comfort.

Luke 16:25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou Art tormented.

Christ's presence.

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Philippians 1:23 For I am in a strait Betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

1 Corinthians 15:51-55 ¶ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump:** for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

A crown of life.

2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have Tribulation ten days: be thou Faithful unto Death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

A joyful resurrection.

Isaiah 26:19 Thy Dead men shall live, together with my Dead body shall they arise. Awake and Sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the Dead.

Daniel 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Disregarded by the wicked.

Isaiah 57:1 The Righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the Righteous is taken away from the evil to come.

Survivors consoled for.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ¶ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

The wicked wish theirs to resemble.

Numbers 23:10 Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the Death of the Righteous, and let my last end be like his!

Illustrated.

Luke 16:22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the Angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

Exemplified.

Abraham,

Genesis 25:8 Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.

Isaac,

Genesis 35:29 And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Jacob,

Genesis 49:33 And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.

Aaron,

Numbers 20:28 And Moses stripped Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there in the top of the mount: and Moses and Eleazar came down from the mount.

Moses,

Deuteronomy 34:5 So Moses the Servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

Joshua,

Joshua 24:29 And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the Servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old.

Elisha,

2 Kings 13:14 Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my Father, my Father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof.

2 Kings 13:20 And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year.

One Thief

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, **Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.**

John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, **Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father:** but go to my brethren, and say unto them, **I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.**

Dorcas,

Acts 9:37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

The Death of the Wicked

Is in their Sins.

Ezekiel 3:19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

John 8:21 Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your Sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.

Is without hope.

Proverbs 11:7 When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth.

Sometimes without fear.

Jeremiah 34:5 But thou shalt die in peace: and with the burnings of thy Fathers, the former kings which were before thee, so shall they burn odours for thee; and they will lament thee, saying, Ah lord! for I have pronounced the word, saith the LORD.

2 Chronicles 36:11-13 Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the LORD. And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel.

Frequently sudden and unexpected.

Job 21:13 They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave.

Job 27:21 The east wind carrieth him away, and he departeth: and as a storm hurleth him out of his place.

Proverbs 29:1 He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

Frequently marked by terror.

Job 18:11-15 ¶ Terrors shall make him afraid on every side, and shall drive him to his feet. His strength shall be hungerbitten, and destruction *shall be* ready at his side. It shall devour the strength of his skin: *even* the firstborn of death shall devour his strength. His confidence shall be

rooted out of his tabernacle, and it shall bring him to the king of terrors. It shall dwell in his tabernacle, because *it is* none of his: brimstone shall be scattered upon his habitation.

Job 27:19-21 The rich man shall lie down, but he shall not be gathered: he openeth his eyes, and he is not. Terrors take hold on him as waters, a tempest stealeth him away in the night. The east wind carrieth him away, and he departeth: and as a storm hurleth him out of his place.

Psalms 73:19 How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

Punishment follows.

Isaiah 14:9 Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the Dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.

Acts 1:25 That he may take part of this ministry and Apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

The remembrance of them perishes.

Job 18:17 His remembrance shall perish from the earth, and he shall have no name in the street.

Psalms 34:16 The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

Proverbs 10:7 The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

God has no pleasure in it.

Ezekiel 18:23 Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?

Ezekiel 18:32 For I have no pleasure in the Death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.

Like the Death of beasts.

Psalms 49:14 Like sheep they are laid in the grave; Death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling.

Illustrated.

Luke 12:20 But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Luke 16:22-23 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Exemplified.

Korah,

Numbers 16:32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that Appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.

Absalom,

2 Samuel 18:9-10 And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away. And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak.

Ahab,

1 Kings 22:34 And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.

Jezebel,

2 Kings 9:33 And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down: and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the Horses: and he trode her under foot.

Athaliah,

2 Chronicles 23:15 So they laid hands on her; and when she was come to the entering of the horse gate by the king's house, they slew her there.

Haman,

Esther 7:10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

Belshazzar,

Daniel 5:30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

Judas,

Matthew 27:5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Acts 1:18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his Bowels gushed out.

Ananias, ect.,

Acts 5:5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

Acts 5:9-10 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her Dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

Herod,

Acts 12:23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

Death of the Wicked is Eternal

The necessary consequence of Sin.

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of Sin unto Death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth Sin: and Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth Death.

The wages of Sin.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of Sin is Death; but the gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The portion of the wicked.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his Angels:

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the Righteous into life eternal.

The way to, described.

Psalms 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Self-righteousness leads to.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of Death.

God alone can inflict.

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

James 4:12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who Art thou that judgest another?

IS DESCRIBED AS

Banishment from God.

2 Thessalonians 1:9 Who shall be Punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Society with the devil, ect.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

A lake of fire.

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought Miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the Mark of the Beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with Brimstone.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and Idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and Brimstone: which is the second Death.

The worm that dies not.

Mark 9:44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Outer darkness.

Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

A mist of darkness for ever.

2 Peter 2:17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.

Indignation, wrath, ect.

Romans 2:8-9 But unto them that are Contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

IS CALLED

Destruction.

Romans 9:22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:

2 Thessalonians 1:9 Who shall be Punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Perishing.

2 Peter 2:12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

The wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the Dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

The second Death.

Revelation 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second Death.

A resurrection to damnation.

John 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

A resurrection to shame, ect.

Daniel 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Damnation of Hell.

Matthew 23:33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Everlasting punishment.

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Shall be inflicted by Christ.

Matthew 25:31 ¶ When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty Angels, 8 In flaming fire taking Vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Christ, the only way of escape from.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 8:51 ¶ Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there Salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Saints shall escape.

Revelation 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second Death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Strive to preserve others from.

James 5:20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from Death, and shall hide a multitude of Sins.

Illustrated.

Luke 16:23-26 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence.

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